

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A method of treatment, comprising administering 4-hydroxy tamoxifen percutaneously to a patient having dense breast tissue.
2. A method according to claim 1, wherein said dense breast tissue is diffuse.
3. A method according to claim 1, wherein said dense breast tissue is nodular.
4. A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is in a vehicle containing a penetration enhancer.
5. A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is a racemic blend of *trans* and *cis* isomers.
6. A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is a *trans* isomer.
7. A method according to claim 1, wherein greater than about 0.5 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is administered per day.
8. A method according to claim 1, wherein greater than about 0.75 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is administered per day.
9. A method according to claim 1, wherein greater than about 1.0 mg/breast of said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is administered per day.
10. A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is formulated in a hydroalcoholic gel.
11. A method according to claim 10, wherein said hydroalcoholic gel comprises ethyl alcohol, isopropyl myristate, and hydroxypropylcellulose.
12. A method according to claim 1, wherein said 4-hydroxy tamoxifen is formulated in an alcoholic solution.